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COMMENT OF THE DAY

This Must Stop

THE attack made this week off the Fukien coast against the British-registered ship Rosita was cold-blooded in character and tragic in consequences. The facts have been clearly disclosed by the Rosita's chief officer: the ship responded to a signal from two Chinese Nationalist gunboats which, after the Rosita had hove-to, approached from two sides and proceeded to pour a hail of bullets into the defenceless freighter, killing the Master, Captain Robert Adam, and clearly this was wanton action on the part of the gunboats, and utterly unjustified. The Taipei authorities have denied that any Nationalist warships were in the vicinity at the time, but the known facts render any such disclaimer unacceptable. Taipei has imposed her own blockade of the China coast, but she has been afforded no international belligerent rights; wherefore the attack made against the Rosita, and particularly the form it took, constitutes a criminal act.

BRITAIN, with her official recognition of the People's Government of China reserves the right to indulge in legitimate trade with the mainland. Moreover, her title to do so cannot be disputed. Hitherto the interception of British ships along the Fukien coast by Nationalist gunboats, their forcible detention, and often confiscation of cargo has been accepted as being unfortunate. But the Rosita affair introduces a new element which demands investigation and measures to ensure that it will not happen again. British ships on peaceful and legitimate errands along the China coast must have protection from the sort of action taken against the Rosita. The responsibility rests in the first place with the Nationalist Government, who, whatever rights they may assume concerning the intercepting of merchant ships, cannot permit, far less encourage their gunboats to indulge in indiscriminate and belligerent assaults on defenceless trading craft. Assurances in this respect are demanded, the alternative to which must be for Britain to take the necessary steps to protect her own ships.

Britain To Curtail Defence Programme

PROTECTING THE COUNTRY'S SOLVENCY

London, Dec. 4. Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced today still another reduction in the British defence effort to prevent the entanglement of the nation's economy in an inflationary spiral.

He did not specify the size of the cut in his statement to a packed and attentive House of Commons. But he made it clear the action was designed to protect Britain's financial solvency. Mr Churchill said: "Some curtailment must be made. This will, to some extent, involve the cancellation or modification of contracts already placed."

"The reduction will, so far as possible, be brought about by spreading deliveries of equipment over a longer period. It will, however, not be possible to solve the problem entirely by spreading deliveries forward into future months or years."

Referring to aircraft, Mr Churchill said his Conservative government would reduce somewhat "the production of types now in service but we shall continue to press forward as rapidly as possible with the introduction of the newer and still more advanced types."

Further, Mr Churchill stressed that Britain was as determined as ever to carry her full share in the efforts of the North Atlantic alliance.

PREVIOUS CUTS
Britain's defence programme has been subjected to previous cutbacks since it was launched by the old Labour government in 1951.

It originally called for the expenditure of nearly £5,000,000,000 over a three-year period. Then it was spaced out to four years. Last June, Mr Churchill warned Parliament that a further curbing of the government drive was necessary to prevent a "plunge into bankruptcy."

Mr Churchill said it would have been rash for his government to carry on the original arms programme. He added: "That is not passing censure or making a criticism of our predecessors (the Labourites). Had they had to deal with the situation as it presents itself today they would, no doubt, have made the necessary adjustments and curtailments without violating the principle of going to the

Censure Motion Lost 304-280

London, Dec. 4. The Conservative Government defeated a Labour vote of censure in the House of Commons tonight by 304 votes to 280—a majority of 24—after a vigorous defence of its policy by Mr Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister.

Defeat would have meant the Government's resignation. The six Liberals abstained from voting.

The censure motion accused the Government of dealing "incompetently and unfairly" with the business of the House and forcing through measures unrelated to the needs of the nation—bills to denationalise steel and road transport.

The only purpose of the Opposition was to hold up the denationalisation bills, Mr Churchill asserted.

The Prime Minister said: "If we can show that a Government with a majority even as small as our own can in fact do several years' good and faithful work, we shall have rendered an historic service to Parliamentary government."

Far from moving a vote of censure, the Opposition should shake and shiver in their shoes with shame," Mr Churchill exclaimed amid cheers from his supporters.

"BLUDGEONING"
Mr Clement Attlee, Opposition leader, who moved the motion, complained that the Government was "bludgeoning" the Commons by forcing through "worthless" bills with the "quillotine"—a strict time-table.

Mr Aneurin Bevan, in his first speech as a member of the Labour "shadow cabinet," attacked Mr Churchill, saying Mr Churchill was beginning to "find him more and more of Mr Stanley Baldwin, prewar Conservative leader, 'in his most decadent days.'"

Amid loud Labour cheers, Mr Bevan, an old political foe of Mr Churchill, declared: "All that Mr Churchill has done at the end of his great career is to repeat the achievements of a man whom he attacked bitterly before."

Earlier Mr Churchill accused the Socialists of hiding in the corridors of the House last Tuesday night to bring about a collapse of a debate on steel for lack of a quorum.

The debate, which began at 10 pm, quickly collapsed. Only 25 Conservatives and four Socialists were present instead of the 40 members needed to carry on a debate.

Mr Churchill, who was defending the government against a Labour motion of censure, apologised for failure to have enough Conservatives available.

"But over 100 Socialists were in hiding and posted in the lobbies and corridors to prevent their colleagues from entering the chambers," he told the House of Commons.

This, he said, must have required a lot of planning and organisation—"almost as much, perhaps, as was needed to alter the method of electing the shadow cabinet."—Reuter.

PINAY WINS AGAIN

Paris, Dec. 4. The French National Assembly today voted a renewed confidence in Premier Antoine Pinay and cleared the way for immediate discussion of his budget.

Pinay won by the comfortable margin of 814 to 207, according to official count. Supporters of General Charles de Gaulle abstained.

Immediately after the vote, the Assembly went to work on consideration of the budget, which may be debated until the end of this month.—Associated Press.



Above are three of the officers of the British registered ship Rosita, which was attacked this week by Nationalist gunboats, the Master, Captain R. Adam being killed. Left to right they are Mr Wilson Mon, radio operator, Mr Anthony Ingles, second officer, and Mr Eric Shakeshaft, the mate, who brought the Rosita back to Hongkong after the attack.—Wah Kiu Yat Po.

Terrorists Clash With Troops

Tunis, Dec. 4. Armed terrorists clashed with French troops in Tunisia today as French Resident-General, Count Jean de Hauteclocque, flew to Paris for urgent talks on internal security in the protectorate.

The clash occurred near Gafsa, South Tunisia. An undisclosed number of terrorists were wounded and two men, described as armed terrorists, were arrested while trying to escape. The French reported no casualties.

The troops were taking part in a widespread search of the Gafsa area for men who last night fired at a lorry-load of mobile guards (armed police) killing one and wounding three, one seriously. They had found some arms when they were fired on by the terrorists and returned the fire.

Count Jean de Hauteclocque flew to Paris after a security conference with General Pierre Serber, the French Commander-in-Chief in Tunisia, and Admiral Jozan, the French Naval Commander.

In Paris he will see Premier Pinay and the Foreign Minister, Mr Schuman. The length of his stay was not disclosed.

Guard Marcel Regis, wounded in the stomach, was tonight in a very serious condition after an operation.

A bomb exploded today in the garage of Doctor Garnier at Hammamet, North Tunisia, damaging his car. No casualties were reported.—Reuter.

Ship Hunting For Treasure

Capetown, Dec. 4. A British ship, whose name is given as the Twyford, is believed by doctored report today to be engaged in a mysterious treasure hunt.

The ship sailed from Capetown yesterday and gave her destination officially as "the high seas." Today she was observed steering towards the Agulhas Bank, off the Southernmost tip of Africa.

The shipping correspondent of the Cape Argus tonight said: "her principal objective is believed to be 'valuable metals and possibly bullion in ships sunk during the war.'"

He said Captain Frank Hunter, the master of the Twyford, earlier this year paid a secret visit to Danger Point, where 100 years ago considerable sum of money was hidden. Captain Hunter said it would probably be several months before any official news was given of the Twyford's destination and the purpose of her voyage.

The ship has a crew of 30. Captain Hunter said when he reached Capetown from Southampton last Saturday, that he was unaware of his destination.—Associated Press.

Attacked By Gunboats



Above are three of the officers of the British registered ship Rosita, which was attacked this week by Nationalist gunboats, the Master, Captain R. Adam being killed. Left to right they are Mr Wilson Mon, radio operator, Mr Anthony Ingles, second officer, and Mr Eric Shakeshaft, the mate, who brought the Rosita back to Hongkong after the attack.—Wah Kiu Yat Po.

Wins Trade Union Presidency

Atlantic City, Dec. 4. Flery Walter Reuther today won the Presidency of the CIO in a dramatic roll call vote victory over the executive Vice-President, Allan Haywood.

The final official vote was announced as 3,079,181 for Reuther and 2,913,103 for Haywood.

The 45-year-old Auto Workers Union chief, polled a heavy majority of votes over the old line union organizer to become the third President of the CIO and successor to the late Mr Philip Murray.

The election was the climax of the weeklong battle that carried through the CIO's annual convention.

It was the first time in the Union's 15-year history that delegates have been called on to choose between two candidates for President.

The convention was expected to re-elect Mr Haywood to his Executive Vice-President's office as balloting continued.

The present Secretary Treasurer, James Carey, was considered certain to retain his position.

Also up for re-election were 45 members of the CIO's Executive Board.

Reuther will keep his leadership of 1,400,000-member Auto Workers Union. The Haywood forces had tried to stipulate that the new President be a "full-time" president, but Reuther rejected this on his all-out battle to win.—United Press.

Heaviest Drinker In World

Witness Describes Mau Mau Chief

Nairobi, Dec. 4. Jomo Kenyatta, leader of the 100,000-strong African Union, was today described as "the heaviest drinker in the world" at his trial on charges of running Mau Mau, the secret African society which has sworn war to the death with the white man.

The drinking accusation against Kenyatta was made by a prosecution witness—a young Kikuyu tribesman, who had described a Mau Mau oath-taking ceremony administered by Kenyatta during a kitchen drinking party in Nairobi.

Mr D. N. Pritt, QC, former Left-wing Member of Parliament, defending Kenyatta and his five African co-defendants before a Kapenguria Magistrate's Court, obtained an estimate of Kenyatta's drinking abilities during cross-examination of the Kikuyu witness at the start of the second day's session of the trial.

ENGLISH BEER
The young African witness, whose name the Court allowed to be withheld to shield him from possible Mau Mau revenge, became involved in an exchange with Mr Pritt over whether Kenyatta drank English or local beer at the kitchen party.

The witness replied, "He does drink English beer. He is the heaviest drinker in the world."

And in response to Mr Pritt's question "How many times have you and Mr Kenyatta drunk yourselves silly," the witness said several times. "I can't say how many," he added.

The African witness said that he had attended only one Mau Mau oath-taking ceremony kitchen party which he described. He denied Mr Pritt's suggestion that he was under some form of Police custody with a "No, Sir, but I am under protection." He said that he had been under protection since November 11 when he was interrogated four times by the Police and had asked that his name be withheld because "people who give evidence against Mau Mau have frequently been murdered."—United Press.

Headman To Die For Murder

Maseru, Basutoland, Dec. 4. Headman and acting chief Taonga Makhabane was sentenced to death here today for murdering his mother to obtain medicine of "magic" in his feud against a rival chief.

Three other Basutos who helped him take blood from the woman for magical purposes were also sentenced to death.—United Press.

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Eisenhower Decision On Aid Funds Awaited

Adenauer Postpones Action On Treaties

Bonn, Dec. 4.
Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's Parliamentary strategists tonight agreed to postpone to next year the ratification of the treaties to bring Germany into Western defence.

Usually reliable sources said Dr Adenauer's Coalition parties were faced with a revolt in their own ranks against immediate ratification of two treaties—one ending occupation rule and the other to bring German soldiers into the European army—which were already under debate in the Lower House.

In Paris, French diplomatic quarters tonight regretted West Germany's decision to postpone ratification of her treaties with the West.

Speedy German ratification of the contractual agreements and the European Army Treaty would have helped the passage of the bills through the French Parliament as a sign of Germany's desire to co-operate with the West, these quarters said.

It was now considered very unlikely that the French Parliament would tackle ratification before next year.

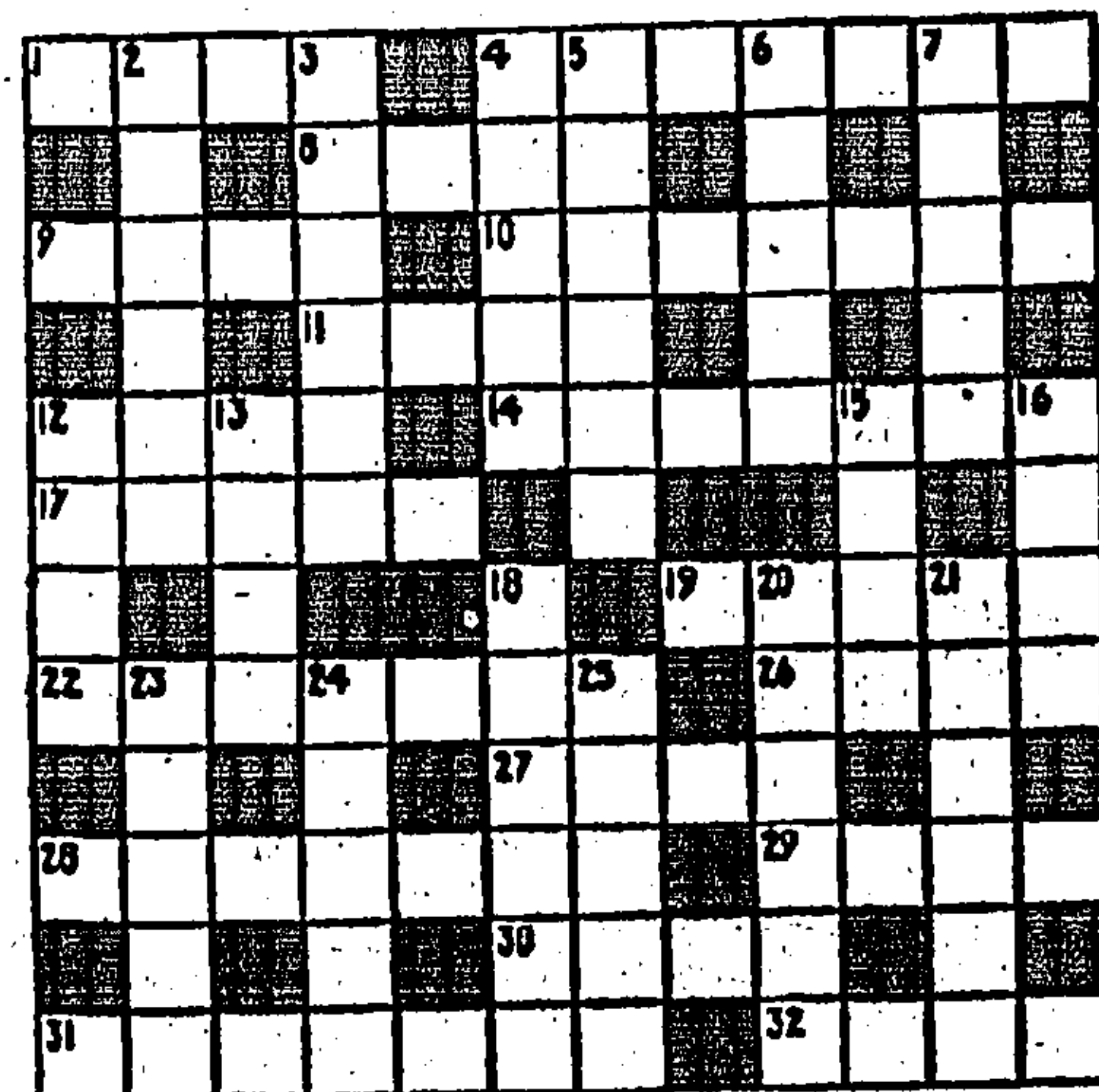
Apart from a very heavy Parliamentary schedule with the Budget debate, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Robert Schuman, made it clear at a Press conference earlier this week that French ratification would depend on the Saar being given its European status at the same time.—Reuter.

Indo-Pakistani Discussions

London, Dec. 4.
Official sources said today the Pakistan and Indian delegates to the Commonwealth economic conference here had started preliminary discussions on exchange of jute and coal between India and Pakistan.

"Discussions are still proceeding. It is too early to say they have reached the stage of negotiations. Also it would be wrong to say they are discussing a barter deal because it will be a straight-forward trade deal," an official said.—United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 1 Stumble (4).
 - 4 Fortification (7).
 - 8 Wander (4).
 - 9 Dog name (4).
 - 10 Stride (7).
 - 11 Bucket (4).
 - 12 Ready for use (4).
 - 14 Most beloved (7).
 - 17 Harden (5).
 - 18 Experiment (5).
 - 22 Cut-out pattern (7).
 - 26 Slices (4).
 - 27 Misdemeanor (7).
 - 28 Had a nuttier (7).
 - 30 Tidy (4).
 - 31 Abundant (7).
 - 32 Plunger (4).
- DOWN**
- 2 Dried fruit (6).
 - 3 As it should be (6).
 - 4 Swift (4).
 - 5 Chafin (4).
 - 6 Entrill (5).
 - 7 Highway (5).
 - 12 Tears (4).
 - 13 Chaste (4).
 - 15 Comfort (4).
 - 16 Throw up (4).
 - 18 Quiet (4).
 - 20 Property (6).
 - 21 Dozen (4).
 - 22 Continuance (5).
 - 24 Of high birth (5).
 - 25 Veins of ore (5).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1 Curlew, 5 Didge, 8 Doyen, 9 Impala, 10 Sheep, 11 Trip, 12 Pair, 13 Grate, 14 Rotted, 15 Evades, 20 Ducks, 22 Waco, 23 Scope, 24 Quake, 26 Edicts, 27 Along, 28 Gloom, 29 Teaser, Down: 1 Crippled, 2 Repaired, 3 Edict, 4 Worried, 5 Despoils, 6 Inhabit, 7 Grotesque, 8 Advances, 9 Exaggerates, 10 Plunger, 11 Sings, 12 Sings, 13 Verbs, 14 Unkind, 25 Zebra.

With Anxiety INEVITABLE BUDGET CUTS

Washington, Dec. 4.
It will not be long before President-elect Eisenhower announces whether he will ally foreign fears of a cut in the American aid which poured out under President Truman's Democratic administration.

His cards go on the table in January for all the world to see.

Just before he quits in January, President Truman presents to the new Congress his annual budget for the year 1954. It was, unofficially, estimated to call for an expenditure of \$85,000,000,000 (£20,357,000,000) or \$80,000,000,000 (£20,000,000,000) more than Congress voted this year.

The new Congress is even more economy-minded and many Republican Senators and Representatives pledged during the election campaign that the limit would be \$70,000,000,000.

(£25,000,000,000) next year and dropping to \$60,000,000,000 (£15,000,000,000) by 1956.

Included in the new estimates is some \$8,000,000,000 (£2,000,000,000) for foreign aid. It is up to Mr. Eisenhower when he takes over as President to make any changes he likes in the budget before it goes to Congress.

And the question is where is he going to start chopping?

A COMPLICATION

Complicating the issue is a tentative plan to transfer much of the European aid to Asia to meet the still developing threat of Communism.

The foreign aid planners, for instance, contemplate bringing Pakistan into the defence system of the free world because of its strategic location and its 80,000,000 population.

It is pointed out that Pakistan is only 90 minutes flying time from several of Russia's industrial centres and many Americans feel it would be a wise investment to build up a Pakistani army and construct American airfields there.

The new President's problem is made even more difficult by the enormous control which the Republicans wield in Congress and by the fact that a coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats this year cut foreign aid from almost \$8,000,000,000 (£2,000,000,000) to just over \$6,000,000,000 (£1,500,000,000).

THE AXE

Will they line up against the new chief and shatter his plans for building up the free world's defences?

Some services must suffer if the Republican promise of reduced spending has to be kept.

So it is wondered whether the economies will be made in the foreign programme, the armed services, or in the domestic field.

To add to the problem, about \$8,500,000,000 (£2,125,000,000) worth of taxes are to be paid during the fiscal year 1954 from such items as excess profits tax on corporation earnings, a 1951-approved increase in income taxes, and excise taxes on liquor, cars and cigarettes.

If these are allowed to die, new sources of revenue have to be found unless the axe falls heavily. Just where it falls is keeping Americans and the world in suspense.—London Express Service.

Appeal By S.P.C.A.

Tokyo, Dec. 4.
The Japan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals appealed today to officials to prevent bull fighting here, as has been proposed by a Japanese promoter.—Reuter.

Escaped Panther Panics Bahrain

Bahrain, Dec. 4.
Nothing like it had ever happened before on the peaceful island of Bahrain. The sun-soaked islanders had never even seen such an animal. Neither had the policemen. So, before they set out to track it down, they were shown two others caged nearby.

And, for 10 hours, while they searched, panic and fear gripped the island, business came to a standstill, schools and streets were closed, houses and doors locked.

The cause? A panther, one of three on their way to London by cargo plane.

Under cover of early morning darkness, it had broken from its cage and slipped out of the air-crate. The panther began at 7 a.m. when its escape was revealed on the transport was about to leave.

The news spread like wildfire through the island. It reached His Highness Sir Khalid bin Sultan bin Ahmad Al Khalifa, ruler of Bahrain. He ordered his cousin, Excellency Khalid bin Sultan, general commander of the police, to search the island, capture the panther if possible, otherwise, destroy it.

But armed police and Arab amateur hunters could find nothing.

Farewell To English Missionary Nuns



Argentina, Once A Land Of Plenty, Short Of Food

Buenos Aires, Dec. 4.
Argentina, whose rich soil once provided abundant produce, is today suffering from hitherto undreamt of food shortages.

Failure to mechanise her farming industry has been a contributory cause. But there have been crop failures too.

Today, potatoes are practically unobtainable in some areas, although the price is nominally one shilling per pound as opposed to a customary two pence.

In the little town of Quimil, in Central Argentina, the potato crop failure led this week to rioting between 1,200 angry Argentine housewives on the one side and shopkeepers and police on the other.

The trouble started when rumours spread that potatoes would be on sale when a certain shop opened at 7 a.m. The housewives started to queue up at 4 a.m.

When the shop opened, the mystified owner explained he had no supplies.

The women rushed the shop and chased the owner into a bathroom where he locked the door and from the inside threatened the besiegers with a pistol.

RAFFLE HELD

The women then wrecked the building and seriously injured the shopkeeper.

When the grocer next door tried to intervene his shop was also invaded. Housewives turned to the shelves for food and ammunition. Several more people were injured. The police arrived, charged with drawn truncheons, and finally dispersed the crowd.

Later the Government rushed 15 tons of potatoes by lorry to the trouble spots. They were sold rapidly before dawn at 6d per lb.

In Buenos Aires the shortage was spotlighted by a charity raffle held by the Convent of the Sacred Heart.

In less than an hour, the Convent raised £50 by offering 10 pounds of potatoes in one pound lots.

Britain's Biggest Moustache

London, Dec. 4.
Man with the biggest moustache in Britain is John Roy, an artist living in Glasgow and a direct descendant of the famous Rob Roy, who served in the Army as a captain in West Africa and Burma during World War Two.

Roy was christened by the West Africans "Lord of the Wide Whiskers." His ginger moustache is at present 18 inches from tip to tip and over 10 inches if stretched.

He is "Prime Handicapper" of the Handicapper Club—of which BBC sports commentator Raymond Gifford is president—and comedian Jimmy Edwards vice-president—by a good two inches.

There are about 120 members of the Club, for which four inches of moustache is one of the qualifications. Each handle is measured yearly, and the Prime Handicapper holds the club plaque, an earthenware plate with the portrait of a Victorian moustache of villainous dimensions.

Mr Roy, however, is not the possessor of the biggest moustache in the world. He once met an Indian with a 64-inch growth, which was so long that he had to wind it round his car.

South Koreans' Rejection Of The Indian Compromise Plan

United Nations, Dec. 4.
The South Korean Foreign Minister, Y. T. Pyun, announced today the South Korean Government cannot accept the Indian compromise plan on Korea approved by the U.N. Assembly.

Mr Pyun said a communication to Lester B. Pearson, President of the U.N. Assembly, will state his Government's rejection of the Indian plan.

"Our Government cannot accept the Indian resolution because it is against the spirit of the constitution of the Republic of Korea," Mr Pyun said.

The U.N. plan calls for all prisoners of war to be sent to a demilitarised zone for repatriation by a commission. Mr Pyun's Government regards all Korean prisoners as citizens of Korea.

"We regard all North Koreans as unliberated citizens of Korea," Mr Pyun said.

"Those persons who are called North Korean prisoners in U.N. custody and who wish to remain in the South are in the free part of Korea and are no longer prisoners. Those who want to go back to North Korea are Communists but we cannot regard them as alien prisoners. They are liberated citizens."

"We cannot send those Koreans even temporarily to a neutralised area. That would be a grave reflection on the sovereignty of the Republic of Korea."

Mr Pyun plans to return to South Korea before Christmas.

COPY FOR PERKING

The Indian resolution called for creation of a four-nation commission to take charge of the prisoners in a demilitarised zone and provide for their repatriation.

It states that there shall be no force used either to send the prisoners home or to detain them.

The Assembly directed its President, Lester B. Pearson of Canada, to send copies of the resolution to the Chinese Communist and the North Koreans and urged their acceptance of its terms.

Mr Pearson said at a news conference that the resolution may be sent out this evening. He is drafting a letter to go with it to give a short explanation of what the resolution is, its background, and a short appeal for its acceptance.

He said there are several governments represented at Peking and any of them might be suitable to transmit the document. He would send it direct to North Korea by the most appropriate method.—Associated Press.

Scholarship Scheme To Be Expanded

London, Dec. 4.
A large-scale expansion of the Federation of British Industries' overseas scholarship scheme is being planned to assist engineering students from overseas to train in Britain.

Under the present scheme, about 30 scholarships are awarded annually. These are expected to be increased to 200 for Commonwealth and Colonial territories.

Fifty scholarships are also to be given to young engineers from Latin America.

Students will spend two years training in different branches of engineering works. It is hoped they will return home favourably impressed with British methods and predisposed to buying British equipment with a resulting increase in U.K. exports of plant and machinery.

The scheme is financed jointly by industry and by a Government grant.

Portuguese War Games

Lisbon, Dec. 4.
British Royal Air Force planes will take part in military and civil defence exercises in Portugal from December 8 to 14, the Defence Ministry announced last night.—Reuter.

Does This Make A Hooter Out Of Date?



BASIL CARDEW analyses a new invention for motorists

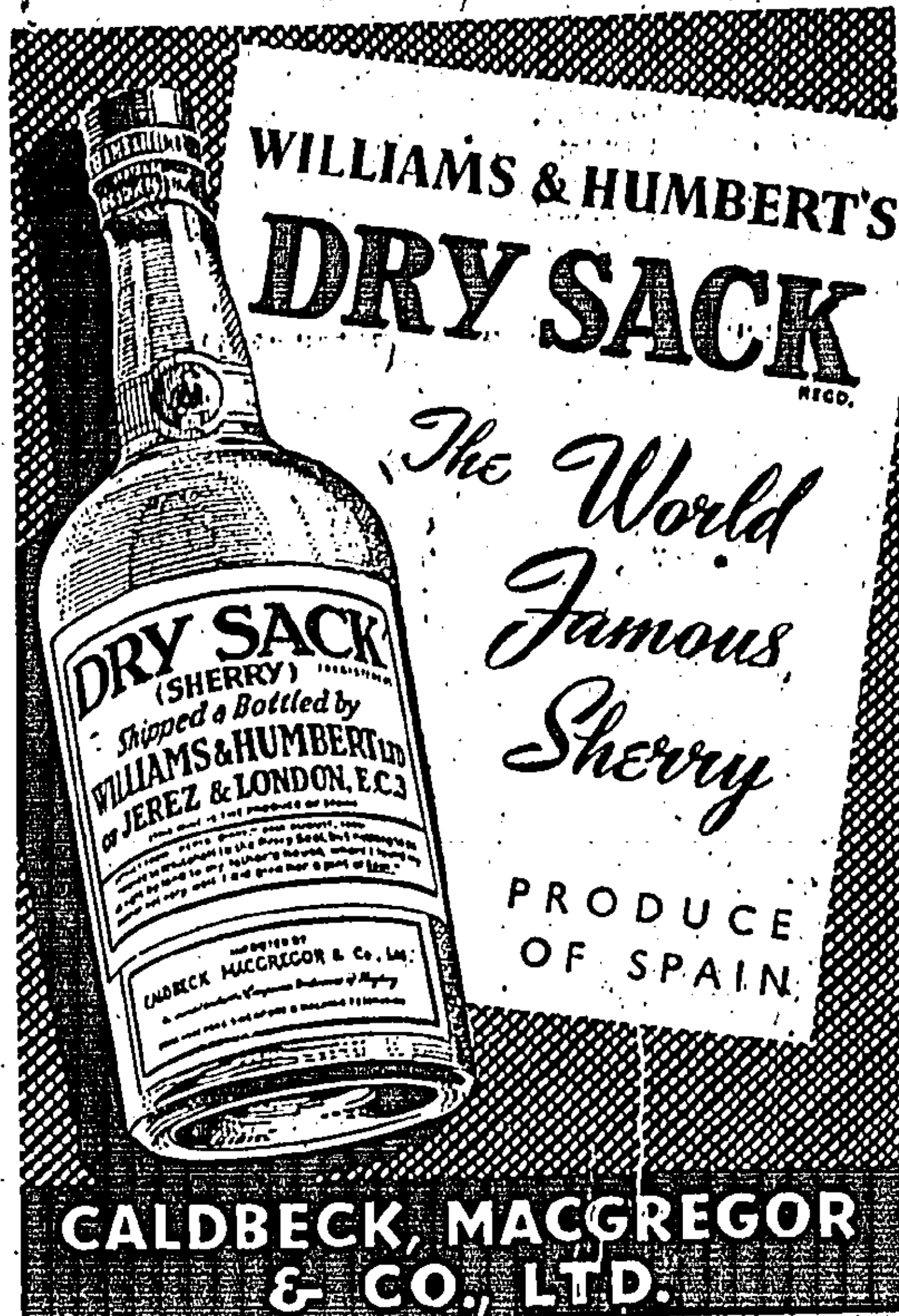
This warning-ray device for the roads is to be tested near London. The technical experts of Britain's four leading motor engineering organisations will decide if the German invention gives drivers better warning than an electric horn.

A nearly invisible ray is projected from a small bulb mounted in the headlamp, far in front of the ordinary headlamp beam.

The ray, which goes as far as 100 yds, is a light blue colour. The cost, at present, £15 for the car, £25 for the motorist.

TALENTED. In driving rain, followed a car on which the tail-lamp threw a downward beam 10 ft. behind it. There the red light was reflected in puddles. And the illusion was enough to keep me an extra 10 ft. away.

It may have been a chance defect. But what an idea for a first-rate rainy night safety device.—London Express Service.



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SEFTON DELMER MEETS NEGUIB

An ace foreign affairs reporter cables a penetrating report on his talk with Egypt's ruling general—Neguib. It was the first time any British journalist has been able to conduct a personal across-the-table probe into the new question-mark power over the Nile:—

How strong?

WHAT should one think of the crinkly-faced, leather-skinned little man in the British-style uniform of an Egyptian major-general who is running Egypt today?

What, I wonder, did Sir James Robertson, Civil Secretary of the Sudan Government, who spent two hours with him in Cairo last month, make of him?

Sir James has had long experience in summing up the Sudanese and the Egyptians.

I have no difficulty in telling you some of the questions Sir James must have asked himself as he looked into those sharp, twinkling eyes under a low forehead and crew-cut crop of wiry, iron-grey hair.

For I had had a long talk with the general myself only the day before. And, like any other Briton meeting Egypt's new strong man, Premier General Mohamed Neguib, today, I had put those questions to myself.

"Is the man, as our American allies claim, just a simple Egyptian soldier, patriot, and practical man ready to judge practical issues with practical common sense free of fanaticism and prejudice? Can he be trusted? Or is he, as the Farouk men would have us believe, just another would-be Machiavellian double-talk specialist, whose pledge is no more reliable than those of his politico predecessors?"

"Above all, is this strong man strong enough to impose his will on the turbulent followers he has brought to power with him?"

'LAST HOPE'

IT is most vital to find the correct answer to these questions. Not only for Britain and the British Commonwealth but for the whole Western world.

For Britain is being pressed to accept General Neguib as Allah's great, never-to-be-repeated, it's-your-last-chance gift to the West.

In return, she is to give up control of the Suez Canal base, which with its stores, harbours, airfields, and ports is essential to the Western world's defence against a possible Soviet invasion of the Middle East.

This Soviet invasion, if successful, would not only cut off vital oil areas but open Africa to the Soviet armies and turn the flank of the NATO armies defending Europe.

"But," say Neguib's powerful advocates, "without Egyptian good will and co-operation, Suez is valueless as a base anyhow. So take this chance. Bolster Neguib by giving him what he wants. That will win not only Egypt to your side but the whole Middle East. Turn him down and the last opportunity of gaining Egypt's good will has gone. Besides, Neguib is the most reasonable man. He is quite ready to accept a bit less than he has asked for..."

NO EASTING

WELL, let me inform you at once, I did not find Neguib at all ready to modify any demands.

Equally intransigent were members of Neguib's top-secret military committee—young brigadiers, colonels,



CHARMER

—which is America's view of this 'soldier, patriot, practical man'



or TYRANT

—which is how friends of Farouk would wish the British to see him

and majors whose coup put him in power.

Certainly the general looked as sweetly reasonable as Old Joe Stalin himself. And, with a pipe in his mouth—he had filled it with a broken-up Italian cheroot—he was uncannily like one of those benevolent portraits of the Kremlin uncle.

But from the word go it was "Take it or leave it," and "I don't believe in long negotiations."

Of the Sudan, Neguib said: "The proposals I have made in my last Note to the British Government are my final word. They are not just the starting point for negotiations. They have been agreed by me with the major political parties in the Sudan, and I intend to stick by them."

COMMITTED

NEGUIB emphasised his view that if the Sudan is to have self-determination, "It is essential that all British influence which could have an effect on the elections should be eliminated so that these elections may be truly free and independent."

"That is the object of the amendments to the self-government statute which have been agreed by me with the Sudanese parties, and am not going back on them."

As an afterthought, he added significantly: "I could not go back on them if I wished to."

Neguib grinned charmingly and puffed at his pipe most engagingly, but he dismissed all suggestions that a British Governor-General would be an efficient and practical official.

CLEAR OUT!

ON the Suez Canal, General Neguib said to me: "The British must withdraw all their forces from Egypt and hand over the installations to the Egyptian Army."

Delightful suggestion when you consider that these installations have cost taxpayers several hundreds of millions of pounds and that the Egyptians are completely incapable of looking after them.

"Only when the last British soldier has left Egypt, and we are completely free in our decisions, shall we be prepared to consider the question whether or not we join the Middle East defence system."

Not a very attractive bird on the bush, is it, for which we are asked to exchange our Suez bird in the hand?

But Neguib realises that. So he added: "After all, it is really in the British interest to evacuate the Suez bases. For it will not be possible to hold them in face of a hostile Egyptian population."

If you think it is a foregone conclusion that once we are out of the Suez Canal, Neguib will hasten to call us back in again, you've got to guess again.

weeks negotiating and making conditions before they finally agreed.

"We have asked them to deliver 15 jet fighters we had ordered and paid for. Delivery of these fighters, you recall, was stopped when Nasser's Government repudiated the alliance treaty last year."

"Now the British have sent me a mile-long questionnaire."

"They want to know whether our air force has pilots to fly these fighters, whether we want British instructors to train our men, whether we are ready to use these fighters in joint manoeuvres with the RAF in Egypt. And lots more questions."

"Frankly, it is just as though someone was trying to sabotage the whole thing. The people are beginning to say, 'Look at General Neguib. He's falling for the old British trickery. They are stringing him on with their end-less negotiations.'"

WHAT NOW?

YES, he probably does feel that, and fear that. And certainly it is the opinion of the brigadiers behind him, the men who are already plotting the next coup.

Of them, and what they mean to you and me, tomorrow. Tomorrow, together with more facts to help you solve the riddle of Neguib.—London Express Service.

CLIMB WITH ME UP TO THE DIZZY HOOTCHIE

By BERNARD WICKSTEED

I HAVE been to see how the British hold a hill-top in the front-line area.

I saw a human rabbit-warren which the men have called Dizzy Heights.

It was occupied by D, or Dog, Company of the King's Regiment, and was like a little piece of Liverpool in the middle of Korea.

From the front—that is to say the side facing the enemy—there is nothing to show these hills are any different from the tens of thousands of others, but from the back they are as busy as ant-hills.

Dizzy Heights is like a block of cliff-dwellers' flats. You climb to it by 139 steps made of ammunition cases wedged in the soft red soil. It is hard going, and at the 100th step some joker has put up a notice saying "Nearly there."

Paths branch out at different levels and lead to the human burrows of Dog Company. In the First World War they would have been called dugouts, in the last war foxholes, but in this one they are known as hootchies or hootchies—according to whether or not you aspire.

The Aussies brought the word from Japan, where uchi means a home, and now it is used in the Commonwealth Division.

The major of Dog Company has his hootchie on the top storey of Dizzy Heights. Above him there is only the gunnery observation post on the roof garden.

The principles of hootchie architecture are simple. You dig a large hole in the side of the hill, shore up the roof and sides with timber, build a front wall of sandbags, and make the ceiling as watertight, shellproof and ratproof as you can.



"Surely the British Press doesn't mind a tiny toe like this getting in its door."

London Express Service

Rain is more of a nuisance than shells, and rats are worse than either.

The major's hootchie is undoubtedly the best in the block. You can actually stand up in it without cracking your head on the ceiling, and he has a cocktail cabinet made out of a soap box let into the earth wall.

"I shall have to get the chimney seen to," the major told me. "The rats get into it for warmth, and when I stoke up the stove they fall down cooked. It is not funny to have a roasted rat drop on your head."

This sounds like a shaggy Dog Company story, but he

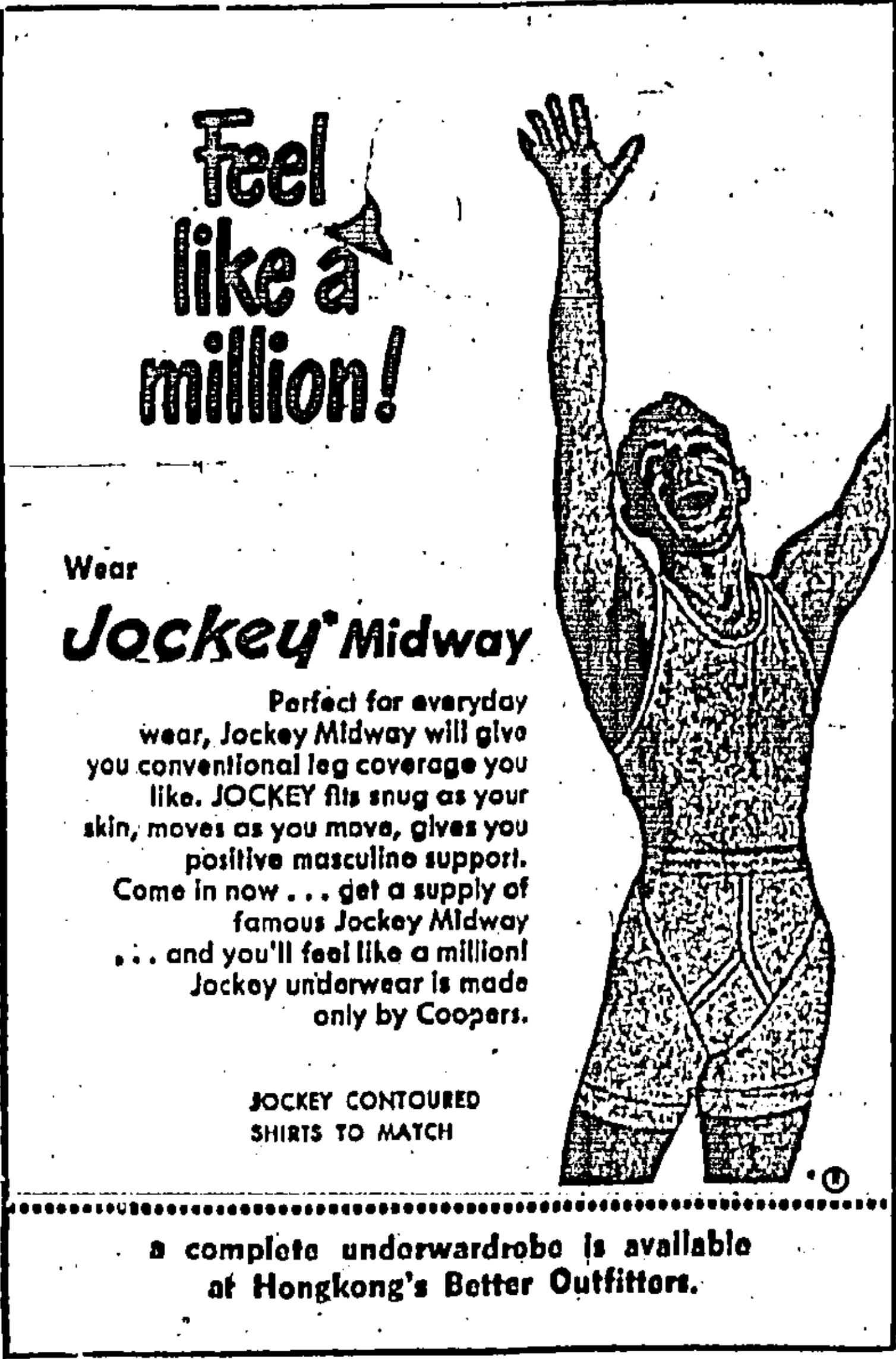
said it had already happened twice.

Near by is the hootchie of Lance-Corporal Joe Miles, of Bute Street, Liverpool. He's very hootchie-proud, is Corporal Miles. He had built in furniture all round the walls, polished candlesticks made from the tail units of mortar bombs, and the standard hootchie stove.

This stove is made from a metal ammunition box filled with petrol-soaked sand, and a chimney of 25-pounder shell cases. You simply put a match to the petrol and, if it doesn't blow the whole place up, you soon have the stove red hot.



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SAILINGS TO			
"SOOCHOW"	Keelung	10th Dec.	Noon
"YCHOW"	Singapore, Penang & Kelantan	5 p.m.	6th Dec.
"YUNNAN"	Shanghai	10 a.m.	9th Dec.
"FENGTEEN"	Djakarta, Semarang, Sourabaya & Macassar	8 a.m.	10th Dec.
"HANYANG"	Bangkok	Noon	10th Dec.
"TOYANG"	Singapore, Penang & Kelantan	10 a.m.	13th Dec.
"SHENGKING"	Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	3 p.m.	13th Dec.
"HUPPI"	Tientsin	10 a.m.	15th Dec.
"SZECHUEN"	Bangkok	5 p.m.	24th Dec.

ARRIVALS FROM

"YCHOW"	Osaka	Noon	6th Dec.
"YUNNAN"	Shanghai	8th Dec.	7th Dec.
"FENGTEEN"	Osaka	Noon	7th Dec.
"HANYANG"	Kobe	Noon	7th Dec.
"TOYANG"	Singapore	10th Dec.	10th Dec.
"SOOCHOW"	Keelung	7 a.m.	11th Dec.
"FARKHO"	Bangkok	12/13th Dec.	14th Dec.
"HUPPI"	Tientsin	14th Dec.	14th Dec.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE

SAILINGS TO			
"TAIPING"	Kure & Kobe	16th Dec.	16th Dec.
"TAIPING"	Singapore & Melbourne	28th Dec.	28th Dec.
"CHANGHE"	Kure & Kobe	31st Dec.	31st Dec.

ARRIVALS FROM

"TAIPING"	Australia & Manila	7th Dec.	7th Dec.
"TAIPING"	Australia & Manila	20th Dec.	20th Dec.
"CHANGHE"	Australia & Manila	27th Dec.	27th Dec.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said			
"PATROCLUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	Sails 11 a.m. 8th Dec.	Arr. 14th Dec.
"ANCHISE"	Liverpool & Glasgow	Sails Noon 15th Dec.	
"ASTYANAX"	Genoa, London, Rotterdam & Hamburg	25th Dec.	
"CLYTONES"	Liverpool, Dublin & Avonmouth	25th Dec.	
"PERSEUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool, & Glasgow	6th Jan.	
"AENEAS"	Liverpool & Glasgow	12th Jan.	

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

Sails			
S. "ASTYANAX"	Liverpool	Sails	Arrives Hong Kong
S. "PERSEUS"	do	10th Nov.	9th Dec.
S. "AENEAS"	do	—	17th Dec.
S. "ASTYANAX"	do	—	24th Dec.
S. "PERSEUS"	do	—	31st Dec.
S. "AENEAS"	do	—	7th Jan. 1953
S. "ASTYANAX"	5th Dec.	10th Dec.	17th Jan. 1953
S. "PERSEUS"	12th Dec.	10th Dec.	24th Jan. 1953
S. "AENEAS"	18th Dec.	23rd Jan.	30th Jan. 1953
S. "ASTYANAX"	25th Dec.	30th Jan.	6th Feb. 1953

G. Loading Glasgow, before Liverpool.
S. Loading Swansea, before Liverpool.
Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load & discharge cargo.

DE LA RAMA LINES

ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC & PACIFIC COAST PORTS.

"MENESTHEUS"	19th Dec.
"DONA NATI"	30th Dec.
SAILING FOR KINGSTON, NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES & CRISTOBAL.	
"DONA ALICIA"	5th Dec.
"BATAAN"	21st Dec.

Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

Route	Departs Hong Kong	Arrives H.K. (on return)
H.K. Bangkok-Singapore	(DC-4) 7:30 a.m. Mon, Thurs, 6:45 a.m. Tues, Fri.	(DC-4) 10:45 a.m. Mon, Thurs, 10:00 a.m. Tues, Fri.
H.K. Manila	(DC-3) 6:45 a.m. Tues, 4:45 p.m. Tues.	(DC-3) 6:45 a.m. Thurs, 4:45 p.m. Thurs.
H.K. Singapore	(DC-4) 10:45 a.m. Tues, 6:45 p.m. Wed.	(DC-4) 10:45 a.m. Thurs, 6:45 p.m. Thurs.
H.K. Manila/B.N. Dornier	(DC-3) 7:15 a.m. Tues, Fri, 4:40 p.m. Wed, Sat.	(DC-3) 7:15 a.m. Thurs, 4:40 p.m. Thurs, Sun.

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BEND LINE

ARRIVALS

FROM	DUE
"BENAVON"	U.K. In Port
"BENROCH"	U.K. on or abt. 15th Dec.
"BENVORLICH"	Japan 15th Dec.
"BENMINNES"	U.K. via Singapore 21st Dec.
"KING MALCOLM"	U.K. via Singapore 30th Dec.
"BENALBANACH"	U.K. 6th Jan.
"BENVENUE"	Japan 7th Jan.

SAILINGS

FROM	DUE
"BENAVON"	Direct to Singapore, thence London, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Hull. 8th Dec.
"BENVORLICH"	Direct to Singapore, thence Liverpool, Glasgow, Rotterdam and Hamburg. 16th Dec.
"BENROCH"	Kure, Kobe and Yokohama. 19th Dec.
"BENMINNES"	Havre, London, Rotterdam & Antwerp. 23rd Dec.
"BENVENUE"	Direct to Singapore, thence Liverpool, Dublin, Rotterdam and Antwerp. 8th Jan.
"BENALBANACH"	via London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Antwerp. 10th Jan.

* Calls Tawau & Sandakan. * Calls Manila and Cebu.

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MISCELLANEOUS

GARDENING BOOK (Daily Express) on how to start a Garden. With six generous pictures, flower seeds locally tested. Plant now! Jan. 1st. "S. C. M. Post," Hongkong and Kowloon.

PERSONAL

Willfred King, Director, United Sterling Corporation; Propano Company; Dominand Export Co., Sterling, Plastics, London, will return from Tokyo Saturday and be available few days Peninsula Hotel Room 301, before returning United Kingdom.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CONSIGNEES PER NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA
s.s. "No. 2 Mantetsu Maru"
are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co's godown where it will be at consignees risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and condition of storage, and where delivery may be obtained.
Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on the 8th December, 1952.
All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before the 15th December, 1952, or they will not be recognized.
No Fire Insurance will be effected.
DODWELL & CO., LTD.
Agents
Hongkong, 3rd December, 1952.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CONSIGNEES PER AUSTRALIA WEST PACIFIC LINE
m.s. "DELOE"
are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co's godown where it will be at consignees risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and condition of storage, and where delivery may be obtained.
Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs. Carmichael & Clarke at 10 a.m. on the 8th December, 1952.
To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.
No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown and goods remaining undelivered after the 6th December, 1952, will be subject to rent.
All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before the 15th December, 1952, or they will not be recognized.
No Fire Insurance will be effected.
DODWELL & CO., LTD.
Agents
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1952.

Sabre-Jet Pilots Show Superiority

Tokyo, Dec. 4.
American Sabre-jet pilots out-fought Communist MIG-15 airmen 10 to one during the past three months, Air Force figures disclosed.
Pilots of the fast F-86 jets scored 113 confirmed MIG kills during the 90 days ending December 1.

During the same period 11 Sabres were shot down in air battles over North Korea.
Two other unidentified enemy fighter planes were shot down by B-39 bomber crews.
In the three-month period one F-80 was lost to Communist ground fire and six to other causes such as engine failure or running out of fuel.
United Nations losses from all causes dropped steadily each month during Autumn despite the advent of snow and ice conditions over North Korea.
The 90-day total of 75 losses included one Australian plane.
KEEP UP PACE
Flying more than 22,000 sorties in September, United Nations Air Forces lost only 51 planes, seven of them in battles with Communist MIGs. All the lost aircraft were American.
In October, without slackening the pace of the round-the-clock Allied air offensive, United Nations losses dropped to 27, including one Royal Australian Air Force Meteor jet, one South African Mustang and three American fighters downed by Russian-built MIGs.
The other losses during October came from Communist ground fire or miscellaneous "other causes."

Mounting another near-maximum effort in November, the United Nations Air Forces lost only 17 planes in 22,700 sorties. Four shot down by MIGs. All the November losses were American planes.—United Press.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

m/v "CLYTONES"
Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed at Hoi's Wharf between 10 a.m. and Noon on December 5 and 6, 1952, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.
Hongkong, December 4, 1952.

Hoverplane

'School' May Start Soon

London, Dec. 4.
One of Britain's hoverplane manufacturers is planning to open a training school at which pilots will be able to put in the flying time necessary to get a hoverplane licence.

Many of Britain's commercial pilots, believing that the hoverplane is the vehicle of the future, have been making efforts for some years to obtain training.
So far, however, only selected British European Airways pilots have completed the necessary hours.
The cost of tuition has been a difficulty. This could be reduced by the use of suitable two-seat machines.
Instruction at the proposed school would start as soon as production of these new machines begins. Already a prototype is flying.

Broadcast From The Vatican

Vatican City, Dec. 4.
Pope Plus will recite the Rosary in his private chapel on Monday, Dec. 8, Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception.
The recitation will be broadcast by Vatican Radio, beginning at 12:45 p.m. on medium wavelength of 196 metres and on short wavelengths of 50.26; 31.41; 41.21 and 25.55.—Associated Press.

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PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leaves London	Due Hongkong
"CHUSAN"	31st October	28th November
"CANTON"	13th November	15th December
"CARTHAGE"	11th December	12th Jan. 1953
"CORFU"	8th January	15th Feb. 1953

Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore.

Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CANTON"	10th December	10th Jan. 1953
"CARTHAGE"	10th January	10th February
"CORFU"	13th February	15th March

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London.

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	From U.K.	For
"SUNDA"	due 7th Dec.	Japan
"SHILLONG"	due 10th Dec.	Japan
Homewards	Loading	For
"SOMALI"	14th December	Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Genoa, Marseilles, Casablanca, Havre, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam & Hamburg
	16th December	

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"TAURA"	At Buoy A5 sails 5 p.m. 8th Dec.	for Singapore & Japan
"WARLA"	due 10th Dec. sails 12th Dec.	from Japan for Singapore & Chittagong
"SANGOLA"	due 17th Dec. sails 19th Dec.	from Japan for Straits, Hongkong, & Batavia
P. & O. B. I. JOINT SERVICE		
"UMARIA"	due 4 p.m. 8th Dec. sails 5 p.m. 9th Dec.	from Japan for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Bahrain, Khormashahr & Basrah
"ORNA"	due 10th Dec. sails 12th Dec.	from P. Gulf, Bombay, Colombo & Singapore for Japan

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

"NELLORE"	due 19th Dec. sails 19th Dec.	from Japan for Sandakan, Borneo, Brisbane, Sydney & Melbourne
"NANKIN"	due 25th Dec. sails 26th Dec.	from Japan for Sandakan, Borneo, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne & Adelaide

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

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MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



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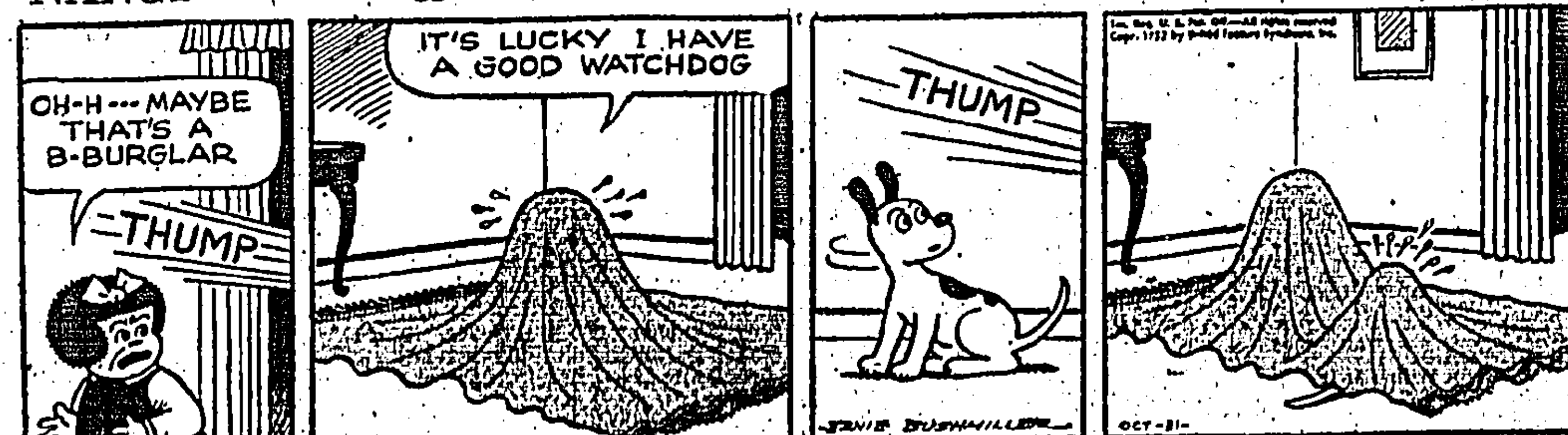
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'Fewer Girls In School' His Demand

London, Dec. 4.
Are too many girls being sent to secondary and grammar schools? That is what Tory Councillor K. Turner asked Hull Education Committee.

After the last examinations, he said, 347 boys and 407 girls were allocated places.

"The ultimate aim of the girls is to get married," he went on. "After five or ten years they leave business. Life, but boys must face it all their lives."

"I feel we should provide secondary school education more for boys than for girls. Two to one or three to one should be our aim until we have more schools."

Alderman J. L. Schultz (Lab.) said they had to implement the 1944 Education Act and it laid down that every child was entitled to secondary and grammar school education. Besides, more girls than men wanted to be teachers.

SWEDISH ENVOY TO PEKING

Tokyo, Dec. 4.
The Peking Radio said today that Hugo Vikstrom, new Swedish Ambassador to Red China, presented his credentials yesterday.
The English-language broadcast quoted Mr. Vikstrom as saying he would "make every effort possible to maintain and develop the friendly relations between Sweden and China and strengthen the bonds of good understanding that have always existed between our two countries."—Associated Press.



